

YEAR IN REVIEW

People



Warfight



Homeland



Partnerships



The Idaho Military Division 2019



**THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, IDAHO
COMMANDER, IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD
GOWEN FIELD - BOISE, IDAHO**

Governor Little,

The following pages highlight the Idaho Military Division's achievements throughout 2019, demonstrating our commitment to the state and nation by maintaining our combat readiness and state emergency response capabilities. This commitment also underscores our role in supporting your priorities of providing education and training opportunities for our citizens, encouraging our best and brightest to work and raise their families right here in Idaho.

The Idaho Military Division is uniquely positioned to meet your objectives, with the ability to offer Idahoans technical and vocational skills training; significant education benefits; full- and part-time career opportunities; medical and dental benefits; life insurance and several retirement programs.

The Idaho Military Division is dedicated to providing Idaho's children and grandchildren opportunities to succeed through programs like the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy and STARBASE-Idaho. The Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy graduated its 12th class giving more than 1,200 Idaho teens a second chance to complete their high school education with their peers. STARBASE graduated its 2000th student in 2019, continuing to motivate elementary students who are underserved in STEM to explore science, technology, engineering and math as they continue their education.

The Idaho National Guard continued to build combat mission readiness on multiple fronts. The 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team deployed to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, to participate in the Army's premier combat maneuver training event. The brigade was supported by the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing, which provided precision close air support. Together, they battled world-class opposing forces in the Mojave Desert.

The National Training Center rotation was the brigade's final training requirement ahead of its deployment to Germany this spring for Defender 2020. Idaho's Citizen-Soldiers will participate in one of the largest deployments of troops from the U.S. to Europe since World War II. Airmen from the wing conducted numerous challenging training events in preparation for their deployment to Southwest Asia in the spring—the unit's largest mobilization since 2016.

Throughout 2019, Idaho's Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen deployed to Afghanistan, Cambodia, Germany, Guatemala and other locations in support of our international partnerships. At home, we conducted Innovative Readiness Training projects with tribal partners, domestic response exercises with the Idaho Office of Emergency Management, eight real-world search and rescue missions and roughly 300 community relations events.

With more than 5,000 personnel—Idaho civilians, Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen—the Idaho Military Division will continue its pursuit to be the state's premier public service organization; attracting our leading citizens to join Idaho's fourth largest employer, which generates a total economic impact of more than \$500 million annually.

On behalf of the men and women of the Idaho Military Division, thank you for your leadership and support in our endeavor to provide a safe and secure environment for the citizens of our state and nation.

Always Ready. Always There.

**Michael J. Garshak
Major General**

CONTENTS



4-5 REAL-WORLD IMPACT, SAVING LIVES

FIRST AIRMAN EARNS RANGER TAB,
FEMALE OFFICERS LEAD IN GUNNERY

6-7 ESGR BOSS LIFT, EDUCATOR DAY

EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF GUARD AND
RESERVE, FIRST-EVER EDUCATOR DAY

8-9 IDAHO YOUTH CHALLENGE, STARBASE

12TH CLASS GRADUATED FROM IDYCA,
STARBASE-IDAHO STEM PROGRAM

10-11 IOEM, ARMY AND AIR JOINT TRAINING

JOINT EARTHQUAKE EXERCISE, IOEM
RESPONDS TO FLOOD EMERGENCY

12-13 WING MRE, CHANGE OF COMMAND

MISSION READINESS EXERCISE, IDANG
PROMOTION AND RETIREMENT

14-15 ORCHARD COMBAT TRAINING CENTER

IDNG BEST PRACTICES IN
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

16-17 CENTER PHOTOS

18-19 BUILDING LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

CST WORKS WITH Nampa PD, SNIPER
TRAINING, NAVY TRAINS WITH IDNG

20-21 INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

IDNG TRAINS AROUND THE WORLD,
CAMBODIA, GUATEMALA AND OTHERS

22-23 GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

WOCs CEMETERY PROJECT, IDNG
CONNECTS WITH VETERANS

24-25 JDEC, IDNG AND IDAHO TRIBES

THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY IN THE
WORKPLACE, IMPROVING DAMON TRAIL

26-29 116TH AT NTC, 124TH AT GREEN FLAG

JOINT TRAINING INCREASES COMBAT
READINESS

30-31 MEDEVAC AND CYBER DEFENSE

IDAHO UNITS COMPLETE REAL-WORLD
MISSIONS, IDNG BY THE NUMBERS

Follow us at:



Idaho Military Division
Public Affairs Office
4040 W. Guard St.
Boise, Idaho 83705
PAO@IMD.idaho.gov
www.IMD.idaho.gov

Governor:

Brad Little

Adjutant General:

Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak

Public Affairs Officer:

Lt. Col. Christopher Borders

Editor:

Capt. Robert Taylor

Graphic Designer:

Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur

Contributors:

Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras
Thomas Alvarez
Michele Bartlett
Sgt. Mason Cutrer
Maj. Jeff Drawe
Capt. A.J. Edwards
Crystal Farris
Capt. Cassidy Morlock
Master Sgt. Sarah Pokorney
Staff Sgt. Karin Sharrai
Capt. Rebecca Solosabal
Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur
Airman 1st Class Taylor Walker
Ryan White
Senior Airman Mercedee Wilds

Editor's Note: The Year in Review is an Idaho Military Division publication comprised of stories published throughout 2019. Some positions and ranks may have changed during the year. Views expressed may not be those of the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, Air National Guard, Army National Guard, Department of Defense or the U.S. Government.

Father, son receive Idaho Cross medal for saving life

Gov. Brad Little and Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, adjutant general of Idaho, presented Lt. Col. Phillip Mills and 1st Lt. Matthew Mills with the Idaho Cross medal March 21 at the Idaho State Capitol.

Lt. Col. Mills and his son, 1st Lt. Mills, were awarded the medal for their actions on Oct. 29, 2018, when they rushed to an individual who was preparing to leap from the Simco Road overpass, pulling her to safety and preventing life-threatening injuries to herself or others traveling on the interstate below.

The Idaho Cross is the state's highest award presented to a military member or civilian employee of the Idaho Military Division. The medal recognizes actions by an individual who saves the life of another or accomplishes a significant act of heroism. 🇺🇸



First Idaho Airman earns Ranger tab



In April, Master Sgt. Douglas Brock became the first Idaho Air National Guardsman to earn the U.S. Army's Ranger tab as a member of the 124th Fighter Wing.

The 62-day course is one of the Army's hardest courses. The small unit tactics and leadership course develops functional skills directly related to units whose mission is to engage the enemy in close combat and direct fire battles.

Brock graduated as the course's enlisted honor graduate. He serves as a tactical air control party special warfare Airman assigned to the wing's 124th Air Support Operations Squadron. 🇺🇸

More than training: Army responds to 8 local real-world rescue missions

The Idaho Army National Guard's state aviation group assisted multiple counties with at least eight search and rescue missions throughout 2019, providing Soldiers with approximately 24 hours of real-world mission flight time.

Units worked closely with county officials from Ada, Elmore, Idaho, Malheur and Valley counties. In April, flight crews made two rescues in as many days.

On April 9, a UH-60 Black Hawk and a UH-72 Lakota deployed from Gowen Field with members of the Boise Fire Department. A family of five was

trapped in the flood waters surrounding their home near Grangeville.

Three of the civilians were able to get themselves to safety while the remaining two individuals had to

be hoisted by the combined rescue team.

The next day, a Black Hawk crew assisted the Valley County Sheriff's Office with the rescue of a 21-year-old man.

The man had spent the night alongside the Salmon River near Yellow Pine after suffering lacerations to the head, a broken arm, a broken leg and broken ribs.

The flight crew hoisted the man into the aircraft and transported him to the Cascade Airport, where he was taken to a local hospital by ambulance. 🇺🇸



First female officers to lead in gunnery



2nd Lt. Brooke Berard and 2nd Lt. Lauren Bolt graduated from the U.S. Army's Armor Basic Officer Leaders Course Feb. 1, qualifying as the Idaho National Guard's first female armor officers.

Both lieutenants serve as platoon leaders for Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment located in Nampa. As platoon leaders, each officer commands a platoon of up to 15 Soldiers and four M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tanks.

Upon returning home, the new officers joined their unit in the field to complete gunnery, also qualifying them as the first female armor officers on the Abrams tank in the Idaho Army National Guard's history. 🇺🇸



Employers spend a day in our boots

In August, more than 100 National Guard and Reserve civilian employers and supervisors traveled to Gowen Field from across the state to participate in the Idaho Employer Support of the Guard's annual Boss Lift. The two-day event gave participants a first-hand look into what their Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen do while away from work at least 39 days of the year for military training.

"We enjoy tremendous support from our employers and the ESGR throughout Idaho and we do not take that for granted," said Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, adjutant general of Idaho. "Boss Lift is a great opportunity to create awareness of our missions in the Idaho National Guard and Reserves and to express our appreciation to those employers and the community who



contribute to our mission readiness."

The ESGR is a Department of Defense program that promotes coop-

eration and understanding between reserve component service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflict arising from an employee's military commitment.

Citizen-Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen invited their employers to walk in their boots, touring Gowen Field, the Orchard Combat Training Center facilities and ranges, various training simulators, aircraft and other military hardware used by the Idaho National Guard and Reserve units.

The Idaho Army National Guard's 1st of the 183rd Assault Helicopter Battalion flew employers in UH-60



Black Hawks over the vast terrain and world-class military ranges of the OCTC.

For some passengers, it was their first time in a helicopter, but for

everyone it offered insight into the austere conditions service members train in throughout the year.

"It is important for employers to understand what their service members

do when fulfilling their military commitments," said Cindy Reese, ESGR state chair. "This event gives them the opportunity to see what their employees do in these times, how they do it and why."

IMD informs local educators of programs

In addition to Boss Lift, the Idaho Military Division hosted Educator Day at Gowen Field in August. The event was a collaboration between the Idaho State Department of Education

and the Idaho Military Division.

The one-day event gave more than 30 Idaho teachers and administrators the chance to learn about the unique career and training opportunities, benefits, incentives, family support programs and intangible skills the Idaho National Guard offers.

This seminar also highlighted the Idaho Military Division's educational programs. During the school year, hundreds of fifth grade students from

Treasure Valley Title I schools participate in the division's STAR-BASE program, which provides students with hands-on STEM training.

The Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy, located in Pierce, provides Idaho high school students who have dropped out or are at risk of doing so, with a second chance to complete high school with their peers or earn a GED. More than 1,200 students have participated in the program over the past six years.





IDYCA gives Idaho teens second chance

The Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy graduated its 12th class in December with approximately 120 cadets. The program has helped reshape the lives of more than 1,200 Idaho teens since welcoming its first class in January 2014.

Since 2014, graduates of IDYCA have earned a total of 150 high school diplomas, 130 GEDs and 15,500 high school credits. They completed more than 55,000 hours of service to community through various projects. Additionally, ap-

proximately 80 cadets joined the Idaho Army National Guard, Idaho Air National Guard or other military services after graduation.

The program provides a second chance to Idaho's youth who are 16 to 18 years old, and who have dropped out of high school or are

at risk of doing so. The program begins with a 22-week residential program in Pierce, where they gain the necessary skills for adulthood.

Approximately 10 percent of each residential class accumulates sufficient credit to graduate from the IDYCA with a high school diploma. Another 10 percent who enter the program earn their GED. The remaining 80 percent complete 14 high school credits and return to high school back on track to graduate with their class.



STARBASE educates local students with hands-on, minds-on STEM experience

Since opening in 2018, STARBASE-Idaho has hosted more than 2,000 Treasure Valley fifth graders on Gowen Field to participate in its hands-on science, technology, engineering and math education awareness and outreach program.

The program, funded by the Department of Defense, enhances Title I schools' STEM curricula. The course includes 25 hours of "hands-

on, minds-on" activities.

Students study Newton's laws and Bernoulli's principle and explore nanotechnology, navigation and mapping.

As the program enters its second

year, Director Jim Heuring said it remains very successful in providing youth with education through fun experiments.

"We've been very successful and our program is appreciated by schools and their teachers," said Heuring.



Idaho Office of Emergency Management, Guard prepare for possible disaster

In March, the Idaho National Guard and the Idaho Office of Emergency Management held exercises to test the state's emergency response plans. The scenario involved a major earthquake in Gem County and provided local, state and federal agencies the opportunity to coordinate their emergency relief and response capabilities.

counties; the National Weather Service; FEMA; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Gov. Brad Little and Lt. Gov. Janice McGeachin also visited Gowen Field to receive an update brief from Idaho Military Division and FEMA officials to simulate the IMD's responsibility to keep civil-

scenario and tested the organization's ability to interact with regional partners and support civil authorities and agencies during a large-scale, no-warning disaster.

More than 80 Idaho National Guardsmen took part in the exercise, including the 101st Civil Support Team and the state's joint staff. An additional 250 partici-



The IOEM exercise, Operation Shared Response, occurred March 5-7 at Gowen Field, the Orchard Combat Training Center and Lucky Peak Reservoir. Approximately 145 people participated each day, including emergency managers from Ada, Boise, Canyon, Gem and Payette

ian leaders informed during a disaster response.

Immediately following IOEM's exercise, the Idaho National Guard hosted Idaho Response-19, March 7-13.

The exercise built upon the IOEM's

participants came from surrounding states, including Guardsmen from the Washington National Guard's 10th Homeland Response Force, the Montana National Guard's 83rd CST and the Utah National Guard's 85th CST. Representatives from U.S. Northern Command and the National Guard Bureau

“We envisioned an exercise of such magnitude that it would drive objectives we’ve never performed in a domestic response before.”



joined the Joint Task Force-Idaho staff.

“When we started planning in early 2017, we envisioned an exercise of such magnitude that it would drive objectives we’ve never performed in a domestic response before,” said Col. Doug Smith, ex-

ercise director. “It would include seeking National Guard capabilities outside of the state like the 10th Homeland Response Force and civil support teams, requiring us to in-process incoming resources and stand up a dual-status commander to receive and deploy active duty forces.”

Idaho Office of Emergency Management leads its first federal disaster response

In June, FEMA approved Idaho's first state-managed federal disaster. Gov. Brad Little requested the disaster declaration after massive rainfall in April caused major flooding in north-central Idaho. Adams, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Valley counties, as well as the Nez Perce Reservation, were impacted.

After receiving a Presidential Disaster Declaration, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management requested the opportunity to manage the disaster using Idaho resources. This opportunity allowed FEMA to use its resources in more hard-hit areas. IOEM was able to take the lead on the disaster, which sped up recovery efforts, vastly improved customer service and limited redundant processes for our citizens.



The 124th suits up for mission readiness



In February, the 124th Fighter Wing participated in a mission readiness exercise at Gowen Field to prepare Idaho Air National Guardsmen for combat deployments.

The exercise consisted of 24-hour operations, giving Airmen experience in wartime-oriented training and an opportunity to adjust to daily work in potential chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threatened environments.

“It’s important for everyone to understand their role and how it relates to carrying out the operation,” said Lt. Col. Mike Knowles, inspector general. “Everyone has a role; if everyone thinks through the frame of how they affect the mission, that is going to make us successful.”

Guardsmen were given alarm signals and tasked with mission-oriented protective postures that consisted of protective gear and a gas mask in the event of a CBRN attack.

The exercise highlighted the importance of the IDANG’s support of the A-10 Thunderbolt II flying mission by getting jets in the air on time and on target, regardless of the circumstances.



Nolan retires, new leaders appointed



Brig. Gen. Michael A. Nolan retired in July after nearly 35 years of service to his state and nation. Nolan served as the assistant adjutant general-Air and commander of the Idaho Air National Guard at the time of his retirement. Throughout his career, Nolan flew the F-4E and F-4G Phantom II aircraft as well as the A-10 Thunderbolt II.

Brig. Gen. Tim Donnellan was promoted May 6 in a small ceremony at Gov. Brad Little’s office. In July, he was appointed to lead the Idaho Air National Guard by Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak. Donnellan previously served as the 124th Fighter Wing commander and has deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.



Col. Shannon Smith assumed command of the 124th Fighter Wing on May 5 in a ceremony at Gowen Field. Smith has served in the Idaho National Guard for the past 17 years and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as deputy commander, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

OCTC home to military training, wild life, public use, scientific research

The Orchard Combat Training Center is situated within the boundaries of the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, 18 miles southeast of Boise. The NCA is home to the largest and most diverse population of breeding raptors in North America and one of the only places where military training, extensive research, public land use and livestock share the same land.

to wildlife and plants, conserve native habitats and sensitive species and better understand the desert environment.

Biologists from the IDARNG EMO, along with agencies from Boise State University and the BLM, conduct field trips throughout the year through the Idaho Adopt a Scientist Program. Through the program, biologists have been able to pro-



mote conservation and management of the land and wildlife by inviting middle and high school students to participate in local research, such as ground squirrel trapping, bat echolocation and vegetation measurement techniques.

As a premier joint combined arms training site, the OCTC is a priceless resource for Soldiers, Airmen



The Idaho Army National Guard works in close partnership with the Bureau of Land Management to support good environmental stewardship and sustainable military training. Since 1987, the IDARNG Environmental Management Office has helped manage military training, limit disturbance



and Marines around the country.

The OCTC allows units to conduct live-fire and close air support training concurrently in one centralized location with its 143,000 acres of vast terrain, world-class ranges and four-season climate.

During the last year, active duty, National Guard and Reserve units from Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Washington prepared for combat in the tough and realistic training environment of the OCTC.

Distinguished visitors from around the country were welcomed by the Idaho National Guard to observe the OCTC's capabilities and world-class training facilities.

Among the visitors were several key military leaders and government dignitaries, to include Idaho Gov. Brad Little, Lt. Gov. Janice McGeachin and U.S. Representatives Mike Simpson and Russ Fulcher.





Local partnerships increase readiness

101st CST trains with Nampa police

Soldiers and Airmen from the Idaho National Guard's 101st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team trained with the Nampa Police Department July 24.

The training event, held at the empty building that formally housed the Mercy Medical Center in Nampa, tested the unit's ability to deploy without notice to a local incident. The Nampa Police Department requested the 101st CST support to complement its own training at the facility.

"It's good to know what support we have nearby so we're not having officers putting themselves into dangerous situations when we have other resources



available," said Nampa Police Department Sgt. Jason Cantrell. 🇺🇸



Snipers train with local law enforcement

The Idaho Army National Guard marksmanship team participated in urban and rural sniper training held in Melba by the Ada Metro SWAT sniper element. The Meridian Police Department sponsored the course in June and SWAT team instructors volunteered their time to produce the intense 50-hour, five-day course.

Officers from the Ada County Sheriff's Office, Gem County Sheriff's Office and Soldiers from the Idaho Army National Guard completed their week of training with a certified qualification exam. 🇺🇸

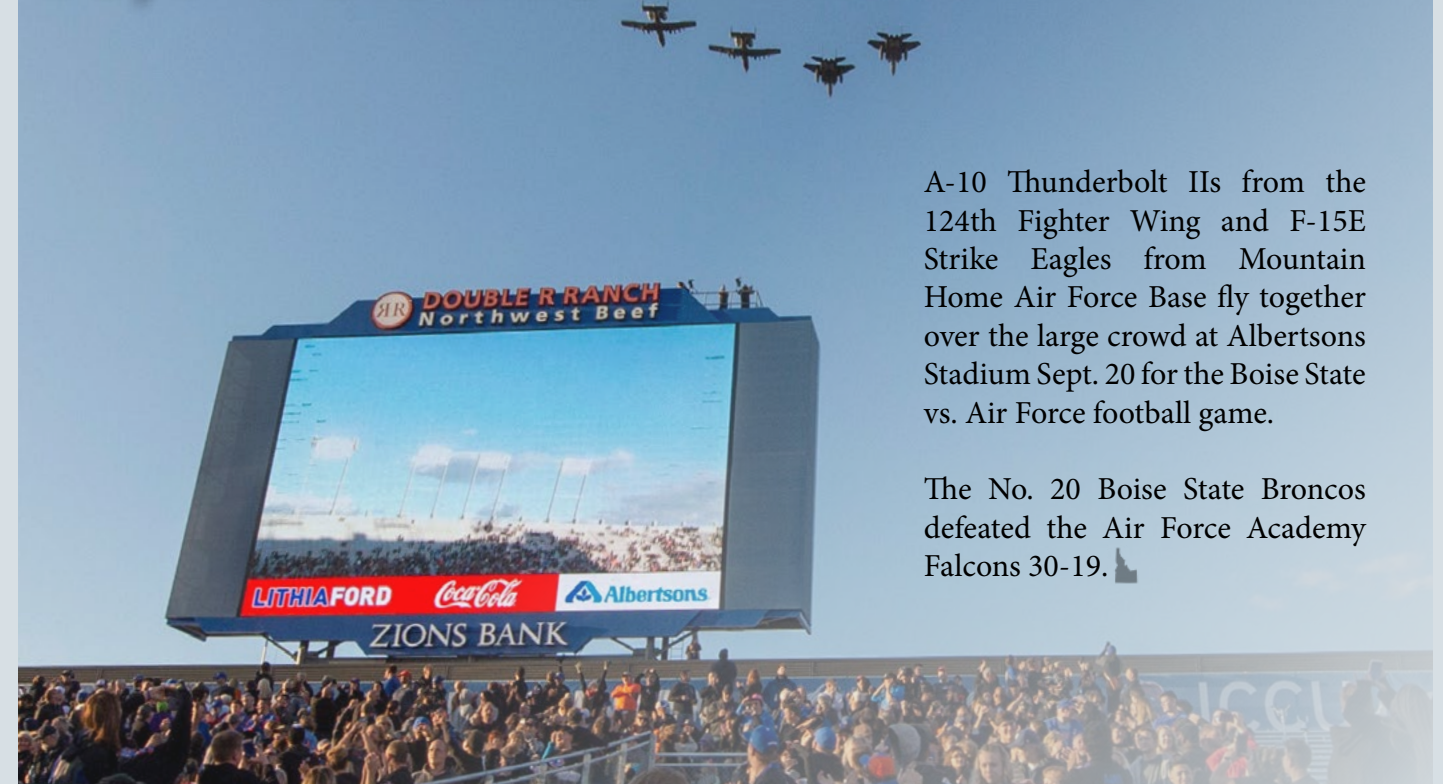
Air Guard trains with search and rescue

In a scenario involving a missing hiker in the mountains, the Idaho Air National Guard's tactical air control party special warfare Airmen from the 124th Air Support Operations Squadron were called in for training with local Valley County Search and Rescue in March.

This was the second year the ASOS has trained with local agencies for rescue missions. 🇺🇸



Beyond the blue



A-10 Thunderbolt IIs from the 124th Fighter Wing and F-15E Strike Eagles from Mountain Home Air Force Base fly together over the large crowd at Albertsons Stadium Sept. 20 for the Boise State vs. Air Force football game.

The No. 20 Boise State Broncos defeated the Air Force Academy Falcons 30-19. 🇺🇸

Warthogs, Hornets fly together



Several U.S. Navy strike fighter squadrons from Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia Beach, Virginia, joined the Idaho Air National Guard's 190th Fighter Squadron for joint training at Gowen Field.

F/A-18F Super Hornets from the VFA-32 "Fighting Swordsmen," VFA-83 "Rampagers" and VFA-105 "Gunslingers" flew alongside A-10 Thunderbolt IIs. The Navy strike fighter squadrons came to Idaho to train in day and night operations with the 124th Fighter Wing. 🇺🇸



International partners around the world

Building more than bridges in Cambodia

The Idaho National Guard has participated in the National Guard's State Partnership Program since 2009 alongside the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces.

Idaho Soldiers and Airmen make several trips each year to Cambodia facilitating the exchange of ideas, capabilities, training and experience between the Idaho National Guard and the RCAF through subject matter expert exchanges.

This year the Idaho National Guard participated in four SMEEs, focusing on first aid, bridge building and leadership skills. In September, Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, adjutant general of Idaho, visited Cambodia.

Currently, the Idaho National Guard SMEE missions are among the only U.S. military missions the Cambodian government allows to occur within its borders.



Morocco Army visits Idaho National Guard

Soldiers from the Royal Moroccan Army visited the Idaho Army National Guard in November to learn more about the equipment of an armored brigade combat team.

The visit was part of the National Guard's State Partnership Program.

The Utah National Guard and the Kingdom of Morocco are SPP partners, which helps build lasting

relationships between the U.S. and developing nations.

During their visit, the Moroccan soldiers observed the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team's M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tanks in a night gunnery exercise at the Orchard Combat Training Center, toured the 204th Regional Training Institute's armor school house and experienced virtual tank simulators.



Army aviators deploy to Guatemala in support of Beyond the Horizon

The Idaho Army National Guard's 1st of the 183rd Assault Helicopter Battalion deployed over the summer to Huehuetenango, Guatemala, in support of Beyond the Horizon 2019.

During the operation, Soldiers provided casualty evacuation support and equipment transportation for U.S. military engineers and medics who were building local schools and medical clinics.

"We had the opportunity to change lives and be part of a mission that brought dramatic change to the economic growth of Huehuetenango," said Maj. Bryan Reid, the unit's operations and training officer.



"The experience was life changing and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to participate."

Nearly 150 pilots, crew chiefs, mechanics, petroleum specialists, signal specialists and supply personnel from the 1st of the 183rd AHB rotated through Guatemala in two-week rotations from April to July.



In addition, the Idaho National Guard Soldiers conducted joint training with the Guatemalan Armed Forces. The training gave participants the opportunity to share skills and practice loading injured individuals into UH-60 Black Hawks.

Beyond the Horizon is a U.S. Southern Command-sponsored, joint foreign military humanitarian civic assistance exercise. Hundreds of active duty, National Guard and Reserve members from all services participate annually to help build U.S. relations with the host nation.

Brazilian Air Force supports Army, Air Guard

Pilots, ground crews and tactical air control party specialists from the Brazilian Air Force worked and trained with the 124th Fighter Wing in June to support the wing's Green Flag exercise and the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team's National Training Center rotation.

During the exercise, Brazilian

A-29 Super Tucano and 124th A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft operated in the sky from Nellis Air Force Base to support the brigade while Brazilian TACPs integrated with counterparts from the wing's 124th Air Support Operations Squadron to coordinate close air support on the ground at Fort Irwin, California.



IMD gives back to our communities

The Idaho National Guard conducted approximately 300 community relations events throughout the state in 2019.

Community relations events inform the public about the Idaho National Guard's dual state and federal missions and help our organization maintain viable relationships with community members and leaders.



Community relations activities include tours of Gowen Field or local armories; the use of the leadership reaction course and vehicle and weapon simulators on Gowen Field; vehicle and aircraft static displays; the use of the 25th Army Band and the honor guard at public events; and the use of local facilities.

Events also include the use of Idaho National Guard equipment in parades and aerial flyovers during patriotic holidays and public events.



WOC Class honors veterans

The Idaho Army National Guard's Warrant Officer Candidate School Class 19-001 raised, leveled and strengthened headstones in the Morris Hill Cemetery's Field of Honor Aug. 3.

The improvement project was a graduation requirement for the warrant officer candidates. Candidates from each class complete a civil-military project to give back to the community and pay respect to veterans. Class 19-001, which graduated in September, consisted of five Idaho Army National Guardsmen, five Utah Army National Guardsmen and one Army Reserve Soldier.



Coffee with veterans

Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, adjutant general of Idaho, routinely gathers Soldiers and Airmen from the Idaho National Guard to visit veterans living at the Idaho State Veterans Home in Boise.

For an hour each visit, they enjoy good conversations and a cup of coffee with heroes from another era. Remembering the service and sacrifices of our veterans remains a priority for today's service members.



Gone fishing

Volunteers from the Idaho Military Division go fishing at least once a year with residents from the Idaho State Veterans Home in Boise. Volunteers help veterans bait their hooks, cast their lines and unhook fish, but most importantly they enjoy a day outdoors together.



Spending Veterans Day with veterans



Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, adjutant general of Idaho, joined Gov. Brad Little, along with staff from Sen. Mike Crapo's office, representatives Mike Simpson and Russ Fulcher, and several state lawmakers on Veterans Day at the Idaho State Veterans Home in Boise to honor veterans throughout the state and nation.

Little signed a proclamation declaring the day to be Veterans Day. Crapo's staff presented the Spirit of



Freedom Award to several veterans and volunteers who distinguished themselves by their outstanding service to veterans.



Diversity creates winning organizations

The Idaho National Guard hosted a Joint Diversity Executive Council conference on April 30 in Boise to address the importance of diversity inclusion in the workplace.

Key military and civilian leaders from 14 states, one territory and the National Guard Bureau discussed solutions for stopping discrimination in their organizations.

Improving diversity inclusion is a top priority for Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, adjutant general of Idaho.

“We need to open our thoughts, our minds and our views on diversity,” he said. “We need to recognize the strengths it can bring in directly contributing to our greatness as an organization. I continue to embrace and appreciate every opportunity to strengthen our understanding of diversity, with the hopes of improving our organization here in Idaho.”

The JDEC, made up of seven regions representing states and territories, advises the chief of the National Guard Bureau and adju-

tants general on diversity inclusion matters.

Representatives from regions six and seven, which includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and the territory of Guam, attended the two-day JDEC conference.



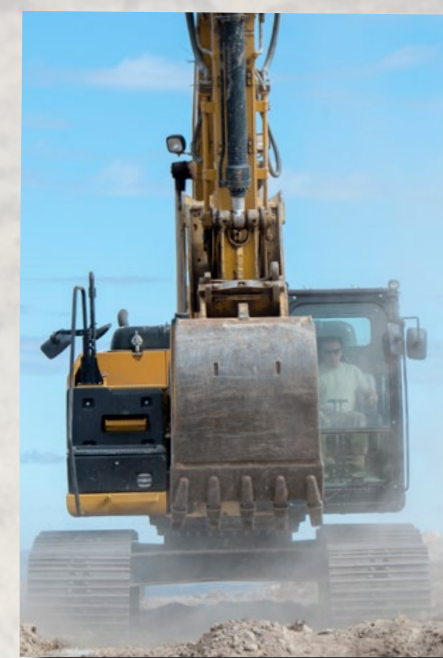
Project paves relationship with tribes

In August, engineers from the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, the Installation Support Unit and the 124th Fighter Wing transformed a trail on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation into a road to improve travel conditions.

The team of 18 Soldiers and Airmen worked together to complete the Damon Trail project. The new eight-mile road provides access to grazing grounds on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation northeast of Owyhee, Nevada.

Innovative Readiness Training projects improve unit readiness while giving back to the community.

“We serve the citizens of Idaho while building our combat readiness,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Gar-



shak, adjutant general of Idaho. “It is especially rewarding having our Soldiers and Airmen work together in support of the Shoshone-Paiute tribe. This project is a tremendous opportunity to highlight what makes being a Guardsman special.”

The trail was eroded and inaccessible due to a 2014 forest fire.

Since then, improving the access road has been a high priority for the Shoshone-Paiute tribe.

The Idaho National Guard began working on the access trail three years ago. Engineers excavated the new road, removed large rocks and moved material from a quarry six miles away to put on top of the road.

“We serve the citizens of Idaho while building our combat readiness. It is especially rewarding having our Soldiers and Airmen work together in support of the Shoshone-Paiute tribe.”



Idaho Soldiers, Airmen train together



More than 2,000 Idaho Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen deployed this summer in support of a four-week rotation at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, one of the U.S. Army's premier training centers.

More than 1,800 Idaho Army National Guard Soldiers participat-

ed in the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team's training rotation, the unit's final training requirement in its four-year training cycle before it is available to complete a real-world mission.

Soldiers were supported by more than 200 Airmen from the 124th Fighter Wing, who were stationed

at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas to provide close air support during their own exercise, Green Flag. Members of both units will deploy in 2020.

The rotation included a 14-day field training exercise that allowed the brigade to conduct offensive, defensive and security area train-



ing tasks while in continuous contact for more than 250 hours against a near-peer force provided by the U.S. Army's 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

"The brigade learned a lot and grew exponentially between days one to 14," said Col. Scott Sheridan, 116th CBCT commander. "This is a learning and growing organization because everyone is willing to make themselves uncomfortable to grow professionally."

The NTC is one of the Army's four combat training centers designed to offer Soldiers and units the most realistic training environment possible. In addition to providing opposing forces with the ability to simulate a near-peer enemy, the training space offers a maneuver area large enough for the brigade to conduct company, battalion and brigade operations.

The 116th CBCT is headquartered in Boise and includes the Montana



Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 163rd Cavalry Regiment; the Nevada Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 221st Cavalry Regiment; and the Oregon Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment.

In addition to the 1,200 Soldiers from Oregon, Montana and Ne-

vada, the 116th CBCT was supplemented with more than 1,000 Army National Guard Soldiers from more than 30 states, four U.S. Army Reserve units and the U.S. Army's 916th Support Brigade.

"It was inspiring to see nine battalions and 50-plus company, troop and battery commanders come together in the hostile environment of the National Training Center and in less than 15 days, mold themselves into an effective brigade combat team," said Brig. Gen. Farin Schwartz, commander, Idaho Army National Guard and the brigade's senior trainer for the rotation.

In addition to the 116th CBCT's three out-of-state battalions, the brigade con-



sists of four battalions located in Idaho.

The 1st Battalion, 148th Field Artillery Regiment is headquartered in Pocatello and spread throughout Eastern Idaho. The 116th Brigade Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Twin Falls, has armories in Boise, Gooding, Grangeville, Jerome, Moscow, Mountain Home and Orofino. The 145th Brigade Support Battalion is located in Boise and Post Falls with its headquarters in Lewiston. The 2nd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment is headquartered in Caldwell with armories in Boise, Emmett and Nampa.

With the brigade spread out across four states, the rotation was its first opportunity to train together as a fighting force since its 2015 rotation.

The rotation also tested the unit's ability to sustain itself across a training area roughly the size of Rhode Island. This task is nearly impossible to train at home stations due to the amount of space required to effectively stress the brigade's logistical capabilities.

Throughout the NTC rotation, the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th FW provided close air support and tactical air control through its participation in Green Flag-West, a realistic air-land integration combat training exercise.

"Incorporating the Air Force al-

lowed us to synchronize the effects of both ground and air forces against the enemy," Sheridan said.

Pilots and ground crews from the wing's 190th Fighter Squadron supported flight operations. 124th Air Support Operations Squadron joint terminal attack controllers deployed with the 116th CBCT to coordinate the use of close air support during the brigade's deep fight.

"It's really awesome to work with Idaho Army National Guard Soldiers," said Lt. Col. "Champ" Clark, 190th Fighter Squadron

commander. "Those relationships we build at home, we continue out here and take back with us."

The large-scale exercise required additional training days for the traditional Guardsmen. In addition to the 29-day rotation, most Soldiers completed 10-day gun-



nery cycles, completed three weeks of annual training last year or attended the Leadership Training Program at Fort Irwin in November.

"No Soldier could patriciate in this training rotation without the support and understanding of their loved ones back home," Sheridan said. "We also fully recognize having our Soldiers away for extended periods of time is challenging for our Guard employers. We appreciate both our Soldiers' families and their employers for their continued support, which allows our Citizen-Soldiers to serve their communities."

The joint training opportunity helped Idaho Army and Air Guard personnel prepare for future missions. The 116th Cavalry Brigade

Combat Team will participate in Defender 2020 in the spring, which includes a month-long deployment to Germany.

The unit will demonstrate the ability of an armored brigade combat team to deploy from the U.S., draw equipment and rapidly build com-

bat forces in Europe. During the exercise, the brigade will conduct training in a high-intensity European scenario fight.

The 124th Fighter Wing will deploy to Southwest Asia in the spring in support of combat operations.



Idaho welcomes home deployed Soldiers



In May, more than 30 Soldiers from the Idaho Army National Guard's Detachment 2, Charlie Company, 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion were welcomed home from Afghanistan by Gov. Brad Little and senior Idaho National Guard leaders at a ceremony in Sun Valley.

The UH-60 Black Hawk medevac unit deployed in April 2018 and provided aeromedical evacuation support for the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

Throughout the deployment, medevac crews collectively flew approximately 100 missions and more than 1,000 hours in helicopters equipped with advanced combat life-saving tools, external hoist systems and forward-looking infrared cameras.

Flight crews consist of two pilots, a

crew chief and a flight paramedic. Soldiers worked 24-hour shifts and had 15 minutes to be up in the air, responding to calls from up to 40 miles away.

"It's an instant adrenaline rush," said flight paramedic Staff Sgt. David Egersdorf. "There's nothing I can compare saving someone's life to, whether it's an American, an Afghanistani or a foreign service member, it's fulfilling."

The deployment marked the eighth time in the past decade an Idaho Army National Guard aviation unit has deployed. 🇺🇸

Cyber operations squadron activates

In March, 39 Airmen from the 224th Cyber Operations Squadron completed a six-month activation. The Idaho Air National Guard's newest unit became the first Air National Guard cyber operations squadron to deploy a fully operational cyberspace protection team.

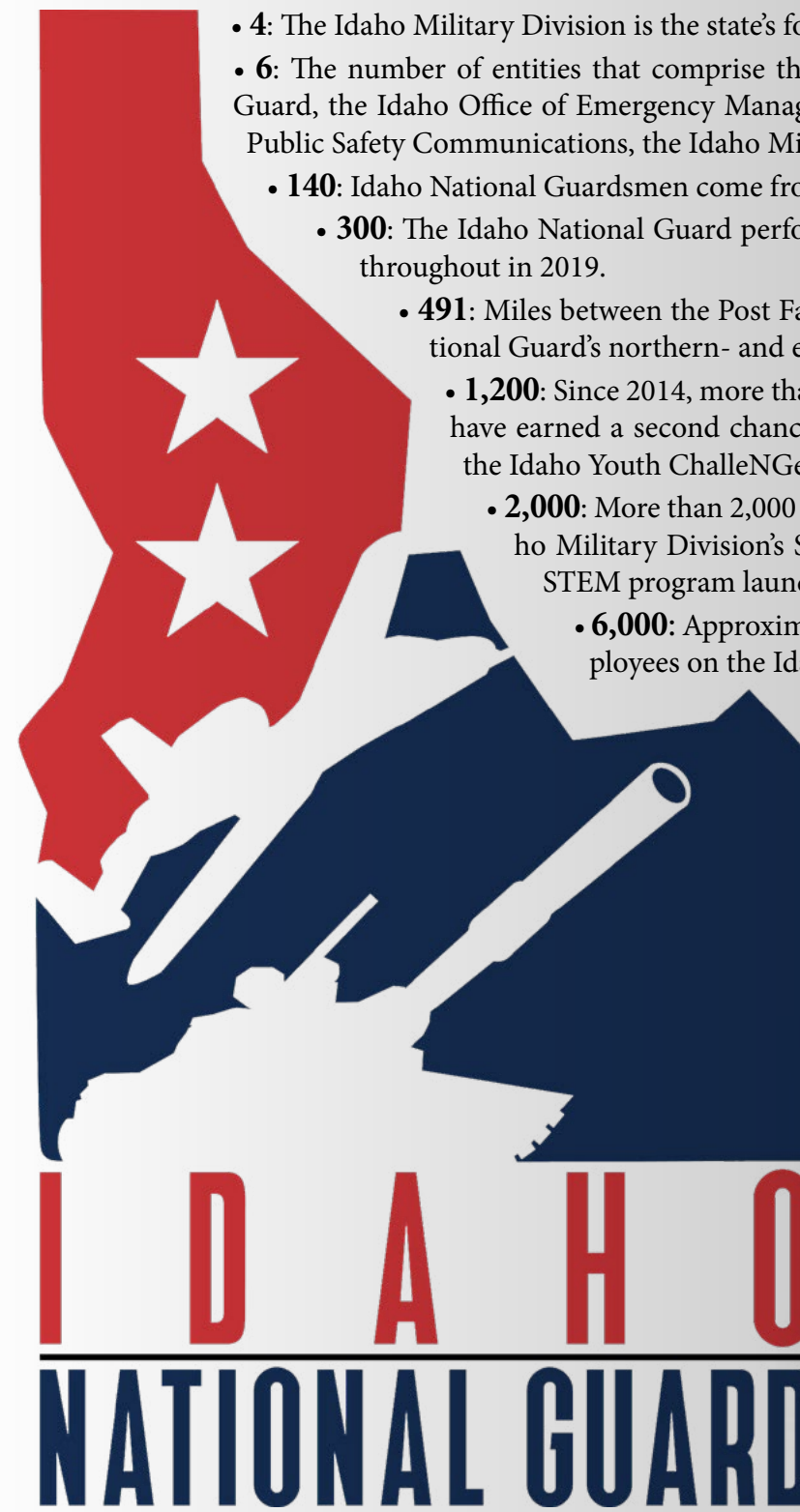
During operations, Airmen executed more than 400 cyber missions, spending more than 2,227 hours on three critical national security systems in the assigned mission partner network. Airmen collected 19 terabytes of data and were able to identify nearly 90,000

host and network vulnerabilities, which led to proposing more than 900 solutions for mitigation. Analysts

conducted nearly 150 cyber intelligence briefs, identifying 250 indicators of compromise. 🇺🇸



Idaho Military Division: By the numbers



- **4:** The Idaho Military Division is the state's fourth largest employer.
- **6:** The number of entities that comprise the Idaho Military Division: the Idaho National Guard, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management, the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy, Public Safety Communications, the Idaho Military History Museum and STARBASE-Idaho.
- **140:** Idaho National Guardsmen come from more than 140 Idaho communities.
- **300:** The Idaho National Guard performed roughly 300 community relations events throughout in 2019.
- **491:** Miles between the Post Falls and Saint Anthony armories, the Idaho National Guard's northern- and eastern-most armories.
- **1,200:** Since 2014, more than 1,200 Idaho students from 43 Idaho counties have earned a second chance at completing their high school education at the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy in Pierce.
- **2,000:** More than 2,000 Idaho fifth graders have participated in the Idaho Military Division's STARBASE-Idaho program since the hands-on STEM program launched in 2018.
- **6,000:** Approximate number of federal, state and contracted employees on the Idaho Military Division payroll.
- **70,000:** Idaho National Guard Soldiers and Airmen used more than \$70,000 in federal and state tuition assistance to attend Idaho universities, colleges and trade schools in 2019.
- **500 million:** The Idaho Military Division generates a total economic impact of more than \$500 million annually.

Idaho Military Museum



12-4 Tuesday-Saturday
4692 W. Harvard St., Boise
Open to the public. Free admission.



The Idaho Military Division's commitment to the community is codified in our adjutant general's three strategic imperatives: to maintain combat readiness to fight and win our nation's wars when called upon; to continue developing and strengthening our homeland security and emergency response readiness; and to continue building and fostering partnerships throughout Idaho, the nation and the world.

Our Mission: To maintain combat and domestic emergency response readiness in the Idaho National Guard; and guide the state, through the Office of Emergency Management, in effectively preparing for, responding to and recovering from all hazards. The division also provides a fully accredited residential high school with the Idaho Youth Challenge Academy, in order to intervene in and reclaim the lives of at-risk Idaho youth.

Our Vision: To be Idaho's premier public service organization; attracting our leading citizens, promoting a safe and secure environment for our state and nation.

Community engagement is a cornerstone of the Idaho National Guard. It is a key to our success. Every Soldier, Airman and civilian is keenly aware, that without you, we could not fulfill our responsibility to the state or to the nation.

